

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for handling folded sheet material, comprising:
 - a rotatable clamping device including a linearly displaceable clamping component; and
 - a collecting device shaped substantially as a saddle, wherein the rotatable clamping device is configured to simultaneously encompass opposing sides of the collecting device.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the rotatable clamping device includes a fixed clamping component.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the rotatable clamping device is configured such that the displaceable clamping component and the fixed clamping component press against opposing sides of the collecting device.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the rotatable clamping device rotates about a first axis parallel to a supporting edge of the collecting device.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the displaceable clamping component is rotatable about a second axis parallel to the supporting edge.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the collecting device is pivotable to move the supporting edge of the collecting device relative to the rotatable clamping device.

7. A method for handling a folded sheet material in a booklet maker, comprising the steps of:

clamping the folded sheet material with a rotatable clamping device;

delivering the folded sheet material to a collecting device along an arc established by movement of the rotatable clamping device, the folded sheet material being deposited over a supporting edge of the collecting device such that a fold of the folded sheet material is supported by the supporting edge; and

clamping the folded sheet material against different sides of the collecting device using the rotatable clamping device.

8. The method of claim 7, comprising the step of:

pivotting the collecting device to receive the folded sheet material.

9. The method of claim 7, comprising the step of:

stapling the folded sheet material when the folded sheet material is clamped against the collecting device.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the rotatable clamping device advances the folded sheet material from the rotatable clamping device using a rotatable and displaceable clamping component.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the folded sheet material is deposited such that a leading side and a trailing side of the sheet material are respectively delivered to different sides of the collecting device.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the different sides converge at the supporting edge.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein the rotatable clamping device rotates about an axis parallel to the supporting edge.

14. A system for handling a folded sheet material, comprising:
 - a saddle-shaped collecting device; and
 - a rotatable clamping device for delivering the folded sheet material to the collecting device, the rotatable clamping device including a linearly displaceable clamping component and a fixed clamping component, wherein the displaceable and fixed clamping components press different portions of the folded sheet material against opposing sides of the collecting device simultaneously.